





The GRAPEVINE

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A publication of Green Street United Methodist Church

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Sunday Worship
9:30am in person & on Zoom
Church Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30am to 1:30pm
Pastor's Office Hours
Monday & Tuesday
10am -1pm
Clothes Closet
Tues., Thurs., Sat.
10am to 2pm

Randolph Sock Drive
Did you know socks are the most requested item by the homeless?
All of the socks donated (new ones) are given to the Bread of Life Shelter. You can leave socks on the bench outside the church office and Pastor Kristin will deliver them to Randolph.

Deadline is 12/20



Saturday, December 11th—River Church Advent Retreat— "Journey of the Magi" 8am to 2pm. East Pittston UMC, 1083 East Pittston Rd.

Sunday, December 12th—Caroling in the Sanctuary at Green Street at 2pm (rain date 12/19)

Sunday, December 19th—Blue Christmas Service for those struggling with emotions during this season—6pm at Randolph UMC, Asbury St., Randolph

December 24th— Christmas Eve at **Green Street at 4pm**. Christmas Eve at **Randolph at 7pm**. Candlelight Communion Service at **11:30pm on zoom**



Join us on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTIIVWJPWHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09

CHANGES ARE COMING

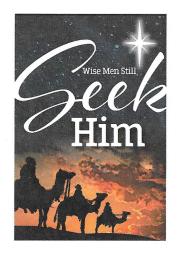
At our church conference with the District Superintendent on November 21, Green Street requested a part-time pastoral appointment. At the same time. Pastor Kristin shared that she is requesting a leave of absence. In July 2022 we will be saying farewell to Pastor Kristin and welcome a new minister to Green Street. If you have any questions or concerns about this process please reach out to the SPPRC.



Remember to reach out

For many people, the holidays bring sorrow, grief and stress. If you're hurting, turn to Jesus and his power. Learn from the woman who, desperate to be healed, reached out to touch the edge of Jesus' robe and was immediately cured.

Sometimes we think our healing process will be so exhaustive that we hesitate to take the first step. Or we doubt that Jesus still performs miracles. Amid your pain, have you reached out? Have you dared to touch Jesus' robe? He is there, waiting to say: "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering" (Mark 5:34, NIV).



River Churches
Advent Retreat
Journey with the Magi
Saturday, December 11
8am to 2pm
East Pittston UMC
1083 East Pittston Rd

Journey toward Christmas with the Magi this year. Our retreat gathers wisdom from five areas of the Magi's story:

Stars: Looking up and out is fundamental to Christian mission. How will Advent help us to look outward as the Magi did?

Travels: The ability to journey is a remarkable feat of the human imagination; an ability to project to a place or an experience that has not yet come to pass. How will Advent help us to imagine an unfolding future as the Magi did?

Gifts: Gifts are words and emotions in concrete form. If we are to accompany the Magi, we have to ask: what does gift-giving *really* involve?

Meeting Herod: If we seek to do God's will, how do we find out where God wants us to go? What might the Magi's journey teach us about spiritual guides and guidance?

Meeting Jesus: What did the Magi really expect to find? Did Jesus meet their expectations? What are our expectations for Christmas?

Lunch included



1—Heather Hibbert

10—Jessica Alley 17—James Douvielle 21—Angela Robbin 26—Lori Webber

27—Wyatt Alley



Simplified Board Highlights

An excerpt of the *unapproved minutes from the Simplified Board Meeting on November 9th at 6pm

Members present via Zoom: Kathleen Dunford, Valerie Gallagher, Kristin White, Dave Robbin, Tammy Roberts, Tina Noble, Lori Webber, Ardyce Robbin; Visitors: Sue Pattershall

Right-sizing evote results: Documentation for the evote approved at the October Board meeting was sent out by Dave via email on October 15. Board members responded with comments and suggestions; Dave revised the right-sizing documentation to read:

1. To recommend "A Resolution to Clarify Leadership Needs and Roles" to the charge conference.

2. To recommend "A Resolution on Cooperative Parish Participation" to the charge conference.

Both recommendations passed

Calling Together at 6:06 p.m. Kathleen opened the meeting with a devotion based on the phrase from 2nd Corinthians 12:9, "my grace is sufficient for all of your needs." Minutes from the October meeting were inadvertently omitted from the packet so we will wait until our next meeting to vote on their approval.

Outside clean-up of church property: Kathleen noted that the church yard clean-up had been taken care of anonymously and need not be a concern at this time, for which the Board is very grateful. It was noted that there is still a large spot beside the sanctuary steps that might need to be dealt with. Kristin will ask George to bleach that area as a precaution.

2022 Budget Proposal information was provided in the packet by the *Ad Hoc* Budget Task Force of Deb Polzella, Sue Pattershall, Dave Robbin, and Tammy Roberts.

Sue noted that the Clothes Closet is expected to bring in about \$6,000 this year and that the end of the year is looking better than earlier projections indicated. Assuming income stays on track for the remainder of the year, mission shares will be paid in full and we will not have a budget shortfall.

The projected budget for 2022, however, does not look very good, with a projected shortfall of about \$46,000. Even with significant spending cuts, mission share relief, and equitable compensation help, we don't foresee adequate income next year to meet the budget. The Board reviewed and discussed the information provided in the packet and, after making a few relatively minor changes, decided to vote on the amended budget proposal and take a hard look at our options to address the shortfall immediately after the first of the year. Tammy made a **motion** that the Board adopt the 2022 Proposal on the budget as amended at the meeting; Dave seconded the motion. **The motion passed**.

There was further discussion of using unrestricted funds from bequests to meet the 2022 shortfall and in what order the funds should be used. It was decided to table this discussion and a decision until a future meeting.

Providing non-anxious leadership during uncertain times. Kathleen asked Board members to consider how these difficult times provide a "dangerous opportunity." Ways in which it's an opportunity included the following responses: it's an opportunity for members to be more in touch with their spiritual gifts and begin to explore them; it's an opportunity to bring a sense of shared stewardship since the pastor's job and our job are the same – to create disciples for the transformation of the world; it provides the opportunity to recognize that the church's future is less about sustainability and more about resilience as we grapple with the changes that are an unavoidable part of life; it's an opportunity to focus on our vision rather than using our energy to hang on to things that no longer work; it's an opportunity to more fully explore adaptive and technical change.

We have an opportunity to celebrate what we have been, and then to look to the future and celebrate what we can become. We were reminded to have faith that those who came before us made the best choice they could for that moment in time, and we must have faith that we are doing the same.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. following a prayer by Sue.

Ardyce Robbin, recording secretary

Updates from the Gathering Task Force

The Gathering Task Force continues to monitor both CDC and Conference recommendations for gatherings. At this point, as covid numbers remain steady in Maine, we aren't suggesting changes to Green Street's gathering protocols. However, there are two items that we want to share with the congregation. The Fellowship Hall currently doesn't meet CDC guidelines for air quality related to covid safety. There is not adequate ventilation for gatherings of more than a few people. Aside from covid, the air quality of both the Fellowship Hall and Choir Room are most likely not healthy for long-term use. The Task Force will recommend to the Church Board having a professional measure air quality in those rooms and offer recommendations for how to make that space usable in a healthy way.

In January the Task Force will begin working with CDC guidelines and Conference recommendations to set benchmarks for changes to our protocols. For instance, at what point will we no longer require masks during worship? What conditions need to exist in our community to make that transition, and what are the signs that we've reached that point?

I personally extend my gratitude to the Gathering Task Force for their ongoing commitment, thoughtfulness, and compassion as we seek ways forward in these uncertain times and under often rapidly changing conditions.

Pastor Kristin

The example of Mary

"We must look to Mary's example to know how to deal with the glorious impossibilities of God," writes Calvin Miller in *The Christ of Christmas*. "Look how she turned the world upside down by making one simple statement."

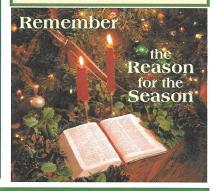
Jesus surely could have come to earth without Mary's aid. But God seems to prefer partnering with people to accomplish miracles such as salvation and healing. So God chooses Mary to carry the Savior. Later, Jesus often declares people's own faith crucial to their healing. And today, God works justice through us, not apart from us.

God doesn't force us into collaboration. Yet, notes Miller, "God needs only a little of our agreement in order to work mighty wonders." Like Mary's humble assent: "I am the Lord's servant. ... May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38, NIV). And like yours — for whatever partnership God invites you into. God will do the heavy lifting, for certain, but he hopes you'll say yes.

The Upper Room Clothes Closet

The clothes closet is decorated for Christmas. Come check out our Christmas tree!

During the month of December, we will be offering a free article of clothing with each purchase. Our ministry continues to grow. New customers every week. If you would like to help, please call the church office or visit the clothes closet and see one of the volunteers to find out how you can help. Some of the opportunities are ironing, tagging clothing, sizing clothes. hanging clothes, organizing racks to name a few. We are open Tuesday. Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Merry Christmas and God bless at this special time of year.





Green Street Christmas Card

A great way to send greetings to your church friends and save time, postage and paper! Your donations will go to the Augusta Food Bank. To have your name included, please fill in the form below and place it along with your donation in an envelope, drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. **Requests must be received in the office no later than December 10th.** Thank you.

Name as you want it to appear on the card:

Cooperative Coordinating Committee

Let Us Know!

CCC usually meets on the second Sunday each month. For December, the CCC will not meet and hopes you will enjoy the Sing-Along at 2pm on 12 December. Our *January* meeting will be on the *third* Sunday at 1pm (January 16).

We need to know how the Cooperative Parish is working for you and what your needs and expectations are—for future worship planning and beyond!

Green Street's members of the CCC are:

- •Kathleen Dunford, at-large (tkdunford@gmail.com or (207) 623-3174);
- •Valerie Gallagher, *Lay Leader* (JVGallagher2@gmail.com or (207) 458–7779); and
- •David Robbin, SPRC Chair (dwrobbin@gmail.com or (207) 512-8620).

Please email or call any of us with your further questions, concerns, and ideas. (You may also contact any lay member of SPRC to discuss the Bishop's appointment of Rev. White to the Cooperative Parish, and your feedback will stay confidential to SPRC.)

Angel Tree

We still have a few remaining tags on the Angel Tree. Please consider stopping by and taking a tag so we can make Christmas complete for a local family.



Fuel Day

November 27

In honor of
Gary and Donna Alexander's
wedding anniversary.

Given by Mark and Tammy Roberts and family

We ♥☐ our staff!

Let us know what's on your heart

It's the SPRC's job to talk to the pastor and staff about the effectiveness of their ministry and their relationships with the congregation.

Pastor, Rev. Kristin White Administrative Assistant, Darby Rock Maintenance Custodian, George Jones Nursery Supervisor, Nharra Lapitan Organist/Accompanist, Lynne Burney Choir Director, Susan Pattershall Liaison David Robbin Sally Joy Judy Adams Sarah Barnum Susan Cross

If you have a question, idea, concern, or comment—no matter how big or small—please contact any one of us, and we will confidentially discuss your needs as a committee and get back to you.

Yours in Christ,

Sarah Barnum she/her/hers/[none] barnumsarah54@gmail.com	Evelyn Horstman she/her/hers/Mrs. horstman3c@aol.com	David Robbin , <i>Chair</i> he/him/his/Mr. dwrobbin@gmail.com
Judy Adams she/her/hers/[none] judy.adams@maine.gov	Susan Cross she/her/hers/Ms. mainecross@gmail.com	Sally Joy she/her/hers/[none] srjoy43@gmail.com
Gary Alexander galexander@myfairpoint.net		
ex off. Valerie Gallagher, Lay Leader she/her/hers/Ms. JVGallagher2@gmail.com		





Green Street UMC December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			7am Prayer	7am Prayer 10am—2pm	7am Prayer	7am Prayer 10am—2pm
		000000000000000000000000000000000000000	5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	Clothes Closet 7pm SPPRC	5:15pm Yoga	Clothes Closet Meeting
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Second Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship	7am Prayer	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 4:30pm Pastoral Support and Ac- countability	7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	7am Prayer 9am Nominations 10am—2pm Clothes Closet
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Third Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship 2pm Caroling (snow date 12/19)	7am Prayer	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 6pm SB Meeting	7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 8am Advent Re- treat in Pittston
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship 6pm Blue Christ- mas in Randolph	7am Prayer	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	7am Prayer 4pm Green Street 7pm Randolph 11:30pm zoom	Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am Worship	7am Prayer	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	7am Prayer	

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am in person and on zoom

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTllVWJPWHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09

Zoom call in by phone 301-715-8592 (toll charges may apply)

Church Office Hours: Mon., - Fri., 8:30am to 1:30pm

Pastor's Hours: Mon. & Tues. 10am -1pm.—Clothes Closet—Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday 10am—2pm